What is Claimed is:

1. A method for passing indexed specific electronic information to recipient clients through the use of a unique index code as herein described with reference to accompanying drawings, the method comprising:

(a) recording a list of unique index codes in a database within a central index code management system within an electronic information network;

(b) distributing unique index codes to end users;

(c) within a central index code management system, recording in a database records that associate each of the distributed unique index codes with the location of the electronic information server of the end user to whom the respective unique index code was distributed;

(d) end users associating received unique index codes with specific electronic information and recording such association in a database;

(e) end users publishing a copy of the content of their database of specific electronic information associated with unique index codes on an electronic information server within an electronic information network;

(f) end users passing a unique index code to a recipient client for the purpose of the recipient client being able to use a client apparatus on a computing device that can be connected to the electronic information network to access the specific electronic information associated with the respective unique index code; and

(g) recipient clients using a client apparatus on a computing device to input a unique index code received from an end user and submit a request to a central index code management system within an electronic information network for the purposes of the central index code management system using its database to facilitate the retrieval from the appropriate end user's electronic information server of the specific electronic information associated with the unique index code submitted by the recipient client and forwarding this information to the client apparatus.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein unique index codes may be created using a variety of methods including being created using an algorithm such that the unique index codes are randomly generated alphanumeric strings more than approximately six

characters in length with the option of using various predefined syntaxes of the alphanumeric string to indicate certain classes of specific electronic information.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein unique index codes may be created using a variety of methods including being created in accordance with an algorithm that ensures random dispersal of the unique index codes within the range of all possible permutations of the unique index codes available with a defined syntax of the unique index codes.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein unique index codes are distributed to end users such that any two or more unique index codes distributed to the same end user will be sufficiently different from one another as to not enable a third person to easily guess other unique index codes distributed to the aforementioned end user simply by knowing one of the unique index codes distributed to the aforementioned end user.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein numerous instances of the central index code management system and its database can be replicated on other geographically disbursed electronic information servers within the electronic information network such that these copies of the central index code management system and its database are readily accessible within the network by client apparatuses.

6. The method of claim 1, where end users associating received unique index codes with specific electronic information and recording such association in a database, may further comprise one or more of the following steps:

(a) creating a template for the content and storage of the end users specific electronic information;

(b) end user's allocating each unique index code to one item of specific electronic information and recording this allocation in a database which also contains the template content of the specific electronic information;

(c) end users updating the content of each item of template specific electronic information within the end user's database, such that each item of specific electronic information within the database will be unique;

(d) a version identifier being associated with each item of specific electronic information within the database, such that subsequent updates of an item of

specific electronic information within the database will increment its associated version identifier; and

(e) an activity log being automatically associated with each item of specific electronic information within the database, such that requests by recipient clients to retrieve data from the published copy of the database can be logged within the database.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the end users passing a unique index code to a recipient client for the purpose of the recipient client being able to use a client apparatus on a computing device that can be connected to the electronic information network to access the specific electronic information associated with the respective unique index code, can be facilitated through the end user furnishing a copy of the unique index code to the recipient client via a multitude of methods and media, including but not limited to verbally through spoken word, hard-copy through hand written notes and printed media and electronically between computing devices.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the partial content of the specific electronic information associated with a unique index code can also be passed from the end user to the recipient client at the same time that the unique index code is passed such that the remaining content of the specific electronic information associated with a unique index code can be retrieved by the recipient client at a later time.

9. The method of claim 1, where recipient clients using a client apparatus on a computing device to input a unique index code received from an end user and submit a request to a central index code management system within an electronic information network for the purposes of the central index code management system using its database to facilitate the retrieval from the appropriate end user's electronic information server of the specific electronic information associated with the unique index code submitted by the recipient client and forwarding this information to the client apparatus, further comprise the following steps:

(a) the central index code management system checking the submitted unique index code against the central index code management system database;

(b) the central index code management system obtaining from its database the location within the network of the end user's electronic information server

that is associated with the submitted unique index code if the submitted unique index code is contained within the central index code management system database;

(c) the central index code management system communicating with the end user's electronic information server that is associated with the submitted unique index code and retrieving the specific electronic information associated with the submitted unique index code; and

(d) the central index code management system forwarding the content of the specific electronic information to the recipient client's client apparatus.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein at the time that the central index code management system communicates with the end user's electronic information server that is associated with the submitted unique index code and retrieves the specific electronic information associated with the submitted unique index code, the end user's electronic information server may also record in a database a log of the request for the specific electronic information as well as other optional information about the recipient client passed to the end user's server by the central index code management system at the time of the request.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein end user's are able to interrogate the content of the activity log in the database on the end user's electronic information server to determine how many copies of the end user's specific electronic information content have been distributed, as well as other optionally collected information about the recipient clients requesting such specific electronic information.

12. The method of claim 9, wherein recipient clients are able to periodically check for updates to the content of the specific electronic information they have already received by employing the same method as is used for obtaining the original content of specific electronic information, but in this case the following variation to the method may be employed:

(a) the client apparatus submits to the central index code management system both the unique index code and the version identifier of the associated specific electronic information contained within the client apparatus database; and

(b) when communicating with the end user's electronic information server that is associated with the submitted unique index code the central index code management system first compares the version identifier of the specific electronic information associated with the unique index code and only retrieves the content of the specific electronic information if the version identifier of the specific electronic information stored at the end users electronic information server is more recent than the version identifier currently held within the requesting client apparatus database.

13. An apparatus that facilitates the passing of indexed specific electronic information to recipient clients through the use of a unique index code as herein described with reference to accompanying drawings, the apparatus comprising:

(a) a central index code management system for maintaining a database of unique index codes and facilitating the retrieval of specific electronic information upon requests from a client apparatus;

(b) an end user environment for creating and publishing databases of specific electronic information associated with unique index codes; and

(c) a client apparatus for the retrieval of specific electronic information through the submission of a unique index code.

14. The apparatus of claim 13, where the central index code management system further comprises the following components:

(a) a unique index code database for storing records containing but not limited to a copy of each unique index code created and the location within the network of the electronic information server of the end user to whom the respective code has been distributed; and

(b) a specific electronic information retrieval apparatus that facilitates searching for the location within the electronic information network where specific electronic information is stored and the retrieval of specific electronic information for forwarding to recipient clients requesting the specific electronic information.

15. The apparatus of claim 13, where the central index code management system may further comprise one or more of the following components:

(a) a unique index code generation apparatus for creating unique index codes;

(b) a unique index code distribution apparatus for distributing unique index codes to end users; and

(c) a unique index code electronic information server for unique index code distribution and search and for retrieval and transfer of specific electronic information associated with unique index codes.

16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the unique index code generation apparatus can use a variety of methods to create unique index codes, including using a pre-defined algorithm to create unique index codes which unique index codes are:

(a) randomly generated alphanumeric strings more than approximately six characters in length; and

(b) unique, in that no two unique index codes are the same.

17. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the specific electronic information retrieval apparatus performs the following functions:

(a) accepting requests from the client apparatus's specific electronic information search apparatus to gather specific electronic information content based on the unique index code submitted by the specific electronic information search apparatus, the content of such requests including a unique index code and other optional data including but not limited to a version identifier of the specific electronic information associated with the unique index code and other optionally provided information about the recipient client submitting the request;

(b) checking the submitted unique index code against the unique index code database;

(c) obtaining from the unique index code database the location within the electronic information network of the end user's electronic information server associated with the submitted unique index code if the submitted unique index code is contained within the unique index code database;

(d) communicating with the end user's electronic information server that is associated with the submitted unique index code and retrieving the specific electronic information associated with the submitted unique index code;

(e) submitting optional information about the recipient client to the end user's electronic information server for recording in the end user's database; and

(f) forwarding the content of the retrieved specific electronic information to the recipient client's client apparatus.

18. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the end user environment further comprises:

(a) an end user database that stores records containing but not limited to the unique index code and its associated specific electronic information; and

(b) an end user electronic information server for facilitating the receiving of requests from the central index code management system's specific electronic information retrieval apparatus and for the transmission to the specific electronic information retrieval apparatus of the specific electronic information requested.

19. The apparatus of claim 13, where the end user environment may further comprise one or more of the following components:

(a) an end user administration apparatus for creating a template for the content and storage of the end users specific electronic information and for allocating each unique index code to one item of specific electronic information and recording this allocation in a database which also contains the template content of the specific electronic information;

(b) a published version of the end user database, which is a copy of the end user database that is accessible via the end user's electronic information server and in which the copies of the records are not updateable except for the fields for logging activity; and

(c) an end user administration electronic information server for receiving unique index codes from the unique index code distribution apparatus and for linking the flow of electronic information between the end user database and the end user administration apparatus and linking the end user database and the client apparatus of individual end users with the end user's

organization to facilitate the updating by the individual end users of the specific electronic information for which the individual end users are responsible within the end user database.

20. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the end user database may also store in the records containing the unique index code and its associated specific electronic information additional information containing but not limited to one or more of the following pieces of information:

(a) an automatically incrementing version identifier that is caused to increment by one or more each time the content of the record is updated; and

(b) an activity log such that requests by recipient clients to retrieve data from the published copy of the database can be logged within the database.

21. The apparatus of claim 13, where the client apparatus further comprises a specific electronic information search apparatus used to submit requests for specific electronic information content to the central index code management system and to receive responses from the central index code management system.

22. The apparatus of claim 13, where the client apparatus may also comprise one or more of the following components:

(a) a specific electronic information management apparatus that facilitates the management of specific electronic information content;

(b) a client database that stores the content of specific electronic information; and

(c) an individual end user specific electronic information administration apparatus.

23. The apparatus of claim 21, where the specific electronic information search apparatus performs the following functions:

(a) facilitates input by the recipient client of unique index codes;

(b) submits requests to the central index code management system to gather specific electronic information content based on the unique index code submitted, the content of such requests including a unique index code and other optional data including but not limited to a version identifier of

specific electronic information associated with the unique index code and other information about the recipient client submitting the request; and

(c) receives responses to search request from the central index code management system in the form of messages and the specific electronic information requested.

24. The apparatus of claim 21, where the specific electronic information search apparatus may also pass received specific electronic information to the specific electronic information management apparatus, if a specific electronic information management apparatus is included within the client apparatus.

25. The apparatus of claim 22, where the specific electronic information management apparatus performs the following functions:

(a) receipt of specific electronic information content from the specific electronic information search apparatus and the individual end user specific electronic information administration apparatus;

(b) displaying, creating, updating, amending, deleting and otherwise dealing with the records in the client database; and

(c) facilitating input by the recipient client to configure options regarding the management of the client apparatus, including but not limited to the frequency with which periodic updates are requested of the specific electronic information in the client database and what optional information about the recipient client will be sent to central index code management system when requests for specific electronic information are submitted.

26. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the individual end user specific electronic information administration apparatus provides access to the end user database by individual end users within the end user's organization and facilitates the individual end users updating the content of specific electronic information in the end user database for which the individual end users has responsibility and passes a copy of such specific electronic information to the specific electronic information management apparatus.